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Parliament-Street, November 3, 1796.

A Dispatch, of which the following is a Copy, was this Day received by the Right Honorable Henry Dundas, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Major-General Craig, commanding His Majesty's Troops at the Cape of Good Hope, dated Camp on the Shore of Saldanha Bay, August 19, 1796.

S I R,

I Have great Satisfaction in reporting to you the Event of an Attempt which has been made by the Enemy, and which has terminated to the Honor of His Majesty's Arms, in the entire Capture of the Squadron of Dutch Ships of War, destined for the Purpose of retaking this Settlement.

Having made every Arrangement within my Means, by the Establishment of a small Post, and the laying the Road by a sufficient Number of the few Men which I had been able to mount, for watching Saldanha Bay, I received a Report on the 3d Instant, transmitted in Fourteen Hours, that Nine Ships had appeared off that Coast on the preceding Afternoon, which I immediately communicated to Vice-Admiral Sir George Keith Elphinstone. By the same Report there appeared to be the strongest Pro-

bability that His Majesty's Brig the Hope had been captured by them; and as there was no further Account of them the next Day I concluded that the Information which they had received, by that Means, of our Strength here, had induced them to continue their Route, and that they would stand far to the Westward before they doubled the Cape, to avoid Sir George's Fleet, which had put to Sea as soon as was possible after the Receipt of the Intelligence.

In order, however, to omit no Precaution, I sent up Lieutenant M^rNab, with a few mounted Men, to watch the Bay more narrowly; and from him I received a Report, on Saturday Night the 6th Instant, at Twelve o'Clock, that the same Number of Ships which had formerly been reported had anchored that Morning in the Bay, and that there was no Doubt of their being Enemies. I lost not a Moment in sending Directions to Simon's Town, from whence, by the general Willingness and Activity which prevailed amongst all Ranks, Five Vessels were dispatched by Nine o'Clock, in Quest of the Admiral, with the Information.

As it fortunately happened that the 25th and 27th Light Dragoons, with Part of the 19th and the Whole of the 33d Regiments, were in Simon's Bay, I could

[Price Nine pence.]

I could be under no Apprehension for the Safety of the Colony from any Force which could be landed from Nine Ships of War. It became, however, an Object of infinite Importance to the Welfare of the Settlement to prevent any Body of the Enemy from throwing themselves into the Country. At the same Time the Security of the Cape Town became an Object of particular Attention, both from the reasonable Expectation, that the Enemy would not have come with such a Force without a Prospect of a Junction with some other Armament, and from the Possibility of the Admiral being prevented from doubling the Cape by the North-Westerly Winds which usually prevail at this Season, and which would carry the Enemy in Six Hours from Saldanha to Table Bay. It was therefore with particular Satisfaction that I found myself possessed of a Force adequate to both these Objects.

No Time was lost in making the necessary Arrangements in a Country totally unused to a Movement of this Nature. The Troops began their March on Sunday Morning, necessarily by Divisions, on Account of Subsistence. The Burgher Senate was assembled, to whom I exposed my Intentions, to which they expressed the most ready Compliance. Waggons were every where demanded by them and furnished with Cheerfulness. Cavalry was necessary, but the Appointments of the 28th were on Board a Ship which had failed in Quest of the Admiral. Those of the 25th were also on Board Ship in Simon's Bay, and we had not above Fifty Horses. The Appointments were brought up, and I did not scruple, on such an Occasion, to require all Saddle-Horses without Exception to be brought in, which were valued by Two Members of the Court of Justice, and Two Officers of the 28th Dragoons, and paid for on the Spot to the entire Satisfaction of the Owners.

By these Means, Sir, leaving Major-General Doyle in the Command of the Troops at and about Cape Town, amounting to near 4000 Men, and Brigadier-General Campbell in the immediate Command of the Town, I, on the Morning of the 16th Instant, reached Saldanha Bay, at the Head of the Advanced Guard, consisting of the Light Infantry, a Body of Hottentots, and Fifty of the 25th Light Dragoons, assisted by Brigadier-General M'Kenzie, the Remainder of whose Corps, consisting of the Grenadiers, the 78th and 80th Battalions, Fifty more of the 25th and One Hundred of the 28th

Light Dragoons, in all about 2500 Men, with Two Howitzers and Nine Field Pieces, arrived there also in an Hour after.

In the mean Time the Admiral had returned to False Bay, and on there receiving the first Accounts of the Enemy being in Saldanha Bay, had put to Sea again with the utmost Expedition; and we had the Satisfaction, from the Heights from whence we descended to the Shores of the Bay, to see him, with all his Sails crowded, advancing with a fair Wind directly to the Mouth of the Harbour, though still at some Distance. One of the Enemy's Frigates, which lay near the Shore to cover their Watering, cannonaded us very briskly as we descended the Heights, though without Effect, and we returned their Fire with as little, having at that Time only Three Pounders with us; but a Howitzer being brought up, a few Shells were thrown with great Precision by Captain Robertson, who would probably soon have destroyed her; but perceiving that our Fleet was then entering the Bay, and that there was no Possibility of her escaping, I desisted from firing, thinking it more for His Majesty's Interest that she should share the Fate of the Remainder of the Squadron, the Capture of which appeared to me to be inevitable, than that we should risk the destroying her, from a vain Punctilio of obliging her to strike to us. We then employed ourselves in making the necessary Dispositions for affording such Assistance as might be in our Power, in the Event of the Obstinacy of the Enemy obliging the Admiral to attack them, as well as such as would be expedient in case they should run their Ships on Shore, neither of which, however, I thought probable. I was accordingly informed, by a Letter from Sir George the following Morning, that the Whole had surrendered themselves to him.

The Means by which this Event has been accomplished, Sir, has not afforded any Opportunity to His Majesty's Troops of displaying that Bravery in his Service, which I am confident they would have shewn, had the Occasion presented itself: But if the utmost Alacrity and Cheerfulness, under almost every Privation, except that of Meat, during a March of Ninety Miles, through so barren a Country that there exist but Five Houses in the whole Line, have any Merit, I can with Truth present them to His Majesty's Notice.

This March, Sir, has never yet I believe been attempted by any Body of Troops, however small,

and

and, permit me to assure you, has been attended with such uncommon Difficulties, that it never could have been accomplished but by the Display of the Qualities I have mentioned in the Troops, and a Union of extraordinary Exertions in all the Departments concerned. In these all have equal Claim to my Acknowledgments; but I cannot dispense with particularizing the Intelligence and Activity with which, regardless of the uncommon Fatigue which attended it, Lieutenant M^cNab, of the 98th Regiment, with about Twenty of his mounted Men, performed the Service allotted to him of watching the Enemy, and preventing any Communication with them, from the first Moment of their coming into the Bay, till our Arrival.

It is, Sir, with very particular Satisfaction that I have further to report, that I have received, on this Occasion, every possible Assistance from His Majesty's Subjects of the Colony.

The Burgher Senate have discharged the Duty imposed upon them with the greatest Readiness, Impartiality, and Activity, whilst their Requisitions and Orders on the Inhabitants for their Waggon, Cattle and Horses, have been complied with with a Cheerfulness which could, I am satisfied, only proceed from a Conviction of the Preference to be given to His Majesty's mild and paternal Government over the wild System of Anarchy and Confusion from which they were furnishing the Means of being effectually defended.

This will be delivered to you, Sir, by my Aide-de-Camp, Captain Baynes, who has been in this Country since the first Arrival of His Majesty's Troops under my Command, and to whose intelligent and active Assistance I have been, on every Occasion, highly indebted. I beg Leave, Sir, most humbly to recommend him to His Majesty's Notice.

I have the Honor to be,

With the greatest Respect, Sir, &c.

J. H. CRAIG.

Admiralty-Office, November 3, 1796.

DISPATCHEs, of which the following are Copies, (brought by Captain John Aylmer, of His Majesty's Ship Tremendous) were this Day received from the Honorable Vice-Admiral Sir George Keith Elphinstone, K. B.

Monarch, Saldanha Bay,

August 19, 1796.

S I R,

I Have the Honor to inclose a List of a Dutch Squadron under the Command Rear-Admiral Engelbertus Lucas, sent hither for the Reduction of

this Colony, but which were compelled to surrender by Capitulation, on the 17th Instant, to the Detachment of His Majesty's Ships under my Command, named in the Margin *, on the Terms also inclosed. For further Particulars I beg Leave to refer you to the accompanying Detail of the Proceedings of the Squadron from the 4th to the 18th Instant, and I hope the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty will approve the Measures I have taken, so essential to the British Commercial Interests in the East.

The Ships are all copped, and in good Condition, excepting the Castor, whose Rudder is defective.

In Justice to the Officers and Men I have the Honor to command, it is my Duty to observe, that, in consequence of the most violent tempestuous Weather I ever beheld, and the very unpleasant Situations in which the Squadron was at Times placed, they cheerfully, and much to their Credit, underwent a Degree of Fatigue hardly credible.

Captain Aylmer will have the Honor of presenting these Dispatches. I beg Leave to mention him to their Lordships, as a respectable Gentleman and an active Officer.

I have the Honor to be, with great Esteem,

S I R,

Your most obedient humble servant,

G. K. ELPHINSTONE.

Evan Nepean, Esq;

Monarch, Saldanha Bay, August 19, 1796.

S I R,

I Have the Honour to inform you, that Intelligence was received at Cape Town, on the 3d Instant, of a Number of Ships having been seen in the Offing at Saldanha Bay, which was confirmed on the 5th. In consequence of this every Preparation was made for putting to Sea immediately, with the Squadron under my Command; but from the Monarch's Main-Mast being out, and the tempestuous Weather, I was not able to quit the Anchorage in Simon's Bay until the 6th, when we proceeded to Sea.

On getting under Weigh an Officer from the Shore came on Board to inform me that a Number of Sails had been seen the preceding Night in the Offing, near False Bay; I then resolved to steer to the Southward and West, in Expectation of their having taken that Course.

The Squadron continued cruising in the most tempestuous Weather I have ever experienced, which

* Monarch, Tremendous, America, Stately, Ruby, Sceptre, Trident, Jupiter, Crescent, Sphynx, Mofelle, Rattlesnake, Echo, Hope.

damaged many of the Ships, and at one Time the Ruby had Five Feet Water in her Hold: We were joined at Sea by His Majesty's Ship Stately, Rattlesnake and Echo Sloops. On the 12th I returned, with a fresh Breeze blowing from the South East, and, upon anchoring in Simon's Bay, the Master Attendant came off with Information that the Ships seen, consisting of Nine Sail, had put into Saldanha Bay on the 6th, the same Day on which I had proceeded to Sea; that they remained there by the last Advice, and that Four Ships had been dispatched in Quest of me to communicate this welcome Intelligence.

I immediately made the Signal to sail, but the Crescent had got ashore; the Wind blew strong and increased on the following Day to a perfect Tempest, in which the Tremendous parted Two Cables, drove, and was in great Danger of being lost, so that, notwithstanding every Exertion, and the most anxious Moments of my Life, we could not get out until the 15th.

On the 16th the Squadron arrived off Saldanha Bay at Sun-Set, and the Crescent, which had been ordered a-head to discover Information and to report, made the Signal for the Enemy, consisting of Three Ships of the Line, Three Frigates, and other Ships, being moored in the Bay.

The Squadron stood on into the Bay in the Order of Sailing, but the Night coming on, and the Rear being too far extended for Action, I judged it expedient to come to an Anchor within Shot of the Enemy's Ships, and, perceiving their Numbers very inconsiderable in Comparison with the Force under my Command, I considered it my Duty, and an incumbent Act of Humanity, to address the Dutch Officer in Command, and consequently forwarded the Letter to him, of which the Inclosure No. 3. is a Copy, by Lieutenant Coffin, of the Monarch, with a Flag of Truce; to this I received a verbal Return, that a positive Reply should be sent in the Morning at Day-Break. I was fearful the Enemy might attempt to injure the Ships, and therefore ordered Lieutenant Coffin to return immediately with my Letter No. 4, to which he brought back the Reply No. 5.

On the 17th, at Nine in the Morning, a Dutch Officer came on Board with a Flag, and presented Proposals of Terms for Capitulation, which you will observe in the Correspondence, with my Remarks and definitive Letter; and at Five P. M. the Terms contained in the inclosed Copy were ultimately agreed upon, but it was impossible to take

Possession of the Ships until the 18th, on Account of the stormy Weather.

It affords me the highest Satisfaction, therefore, to communicate to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that a Squadron of Ships belonging to the United States, under the Command of his Excellency Rear-Admiral Engelbertus Lucas, has surrendered to the British Force under my Command, consisting of Three Ships of the Line, Two fine Frigates, Two of 28 Guns, and a Sloop of 18 Guns, all completely coppered, stored and victualled, together with a large laden Store-Ship, the Names of which are described in the Inclosure No. 6, and the British Ships, to whom they are Prizes, on the Inclosure No. 7.

The consequent Joy of this fortunate Event is much augmented from the consolatory Reflection on it's Accomplishment without Effusion of human Blood, or Injury to either of the Enemy's or British Ships, not a single Shot having been fired.

I must, however, beg Leave to observe, that any Resistance on the Part of the Enemy could only have occasioned the wanton Sacrifice of a few Lives; and I doubt not, that had their Numbers been adequate to Contention, their Conduct would have confirmed the acknowledged Merit at all Times recorded to the Martial Spirit of Subjects of the United States; and I can with similar Confidence assure you, that the Officers and Men under my Command would have exhibited a Conduct equally creditable to themselves.

The repeated Advices communicated in your Letters, respecting the Enemy's Forces destined to this Quarter, agreed so correctly with the Intelligence I obtained by other Means, that I have long been expecting this Arrival, and was thereby enabled to be perfectly prepared to receive them, and constantly to keep a vigilant look out.

I have the Honor to be, with great esteem,

Sir, your most obedient,

Humble Servant,

G. K. ELPHINSTONE.

Evan Nepean, Esq;

(No. 3.)

To his Excellency the Admiral or the Officer commanding the Ships of the United States now lying in Saldanha Bay.

S I R,

IT is unnecessary for me to detail the Force I have the Honor to command, because it is in your View and speaks for itself; but it is for you to consider

sider the Efficacy of a Resistance with the Force under your Command.

Humanity is an incumbent Duty on all Men; therefore, to spare an Effusion of Human Blood, I request a Surrender of the Ships under your Command, otherwise it will be my Duty to embrace the earliest Moment of making a serious Attack on them, the Issue of which is not difficult for you to guess.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) G. K. ELPHINSTONE.

His Majesty's Ship Monarch,
Saldanha Bay, August, 16,
1796.

(No. 4.)

To his Excellency the Rear-Admiral, Commander in Chief of the Dutch Ships lying in Saldanha Bay.
S I R.

I AM this Instant honoured with your verbal Answer to my Letter of this Date, and delivered to me by Lieutenant Coffin, of the Monarch. If I understand him right, it is, that a Flag of Truce subsists between your Excellency, on the Part of the States General, and myself, on Behalf of His Britannick Majesty, and as was demonstrated by my displaying a Flag of Truce before I dispatched the first Letter delivered to you by Lieutenant Coffin, and which Truce is to continue until Day-Light in the Morning. It is, therefore, my Duty to require a positive Assurance, that no Damage shall be done to any of the Ships or Vessels of War, Public Stores, or Effects, that may be placed under your Command, otherwise I shall not consider myself in Duty bound to restrain an immediate Attack, or to treat such Prisoners as may fall into my Hands in a Manner suitable to my general Inclination or His Majesty's Orders in similar Cases.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

(Signed) G. K. ELPHINSTONE.

His Majesty's Ship Monarch,
Saldanha Bay, August 16,
1796.

(No. 5.)

To his Excellency Admiral G. K. Elphinstone, Commander in Chief of His Britannick Majesty's Squadron.

EXCELLENCY,

THE Two Letters delivered to me by your Officer, from Want of an Interpreter, have taken a long Time to translate.

Your Excellency may rest assured of receiving a positive Answer To-morrow Morning, and that during this Time no Damage whatever shall be done to the Vessels of my Squadron, which I promise you upon my Honour.

This Time is necessary to call to my Aid the Captains of the Frigates detached at the Bottom of the Bay, in order to hold a Council of War, whom I am obliged to assemble on Account of Responsibility.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) ENGELBERTUS LUCAS.

On Board the Dortrecht,
August 16, 1796.

To his Excellency Vice-Admiral Sir G. K. Elphinstone, &c. &c. &c.

EXCELLENCY,

A Greeable to my Promise, I send you Copy of Terms of Capitulation, which I doubt not you will grant. In this Hope I am

Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

(Signed) ENGELBERTUS LUCAS.

Dortrecht, at Anchor in Saldanha Bay, August 17, 1796, second Year of the Batavian Republican Liberty.

ARTICLES of CAPITULATION agreed upon in Saldanha Bay this 17th of August, 1796, between his Excellency Rear-Admiral Engelbertus Lucas, Commander in Chief of the Squadron of Ships of the United States now lying in Saldanha Bay, and the Hon. Sir George Keith Elphinstone, Knight of the Most Honorable and Military Order of the Bath, Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and Commander in Chief of His Britannick Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Indian Seas, at the Cape of Good Hope, and of those now lying in Saldanha Bay.

Article I.

REAR-Admiral Lucas will deliver up to Vice-Admiral Elphinstone the Squadron under his Command, upon the Conditions of the Capitulation underwritten.

Answer.—The Vice-Admiral is actuated by Principles of Humanity to prevent the Effusion of Human Blood, and considers the Surrender of the Dutch Squadron as a Matter of Necessity and not of Choice.

Article II.

The British Admiral shall appoint Two Ships as Cartels, the Frigates the Braave and Sirene, in which the Rear-Admiral, his Officers and Midshipmen, and Ship's Crews, shall be permitted to proceed, without Hindrance, to Holland, and the Officers shall keep their Side Arms.

Answer.—Inadmissible, by reason that the Cartel Ships sent from Toulon and various other Places, under similar Circumstances, have been detained, and their Crews imprisoned, contrary to the Laws and Usage of War, and the general Good Faith of Nations; but Officers becoming Prisoners, shall be allowed to keep and wear their Swords and Side Arms, so long as they behave with becoming Propriety, and shall be treated with the Respect due to their Ranks.

Article III.

The Dutch Admiral, his Officers and Crew, shall retain their private Property without being searched, and the Remainder of the Crew who cannot be received on Board the Frigates are to be sent to Holland in such Manner as the British Admiral shall judge proper.

Answer.—Private Property of every Denomination will be secured to the Proprietors to the fullest Extent, in consequence of British Acts of Parliament and His Britannick Majesty's positive Orders, as well as from the general known Disposition of British Officers to treat with the utmost Liberality those who become their Prisoners.

Article IV.

They shall be provided with such Quantities of Provisions as may be necessary for those who embark on Board the Two Frigates, and to be so provided from the Dutch Ships.

Answer.—Answered by the Sixth Article.

Article V.

These Cartel Ships, on their Arrival in Holland, shall be sent to England, and there delivered to His Britannick Majesty.

Answer.—Already answered by the Second Article.

Article VI.

The Crew shall be permitted to go on Shore for Refreshment after their long Voyage.

Answer.—This must depend upon the Major-Ge-

neral commanding the Troops on Shore, but the Commander in Chief will use his utmost Exertions to render the Situation of every Individual as comfortable as possible as to ViSualling, Lodging, and every Accommodation, either on Board or on Shore, as can be procured or reasonably expected; and he will dispose of such as become Prisoners as similarly to their Inclinations as his Duty to his Sovereign and the Interests of his Country will admit.

The Sick shall be received into His Majesty's Hospitals, and taken Care of equally with the British Sick.

It is furthermore the Commander in Chief's Duty and Inclination to send such to Europe as become Prisoners, by the most speedy and convenient Conveyances.

Article VII.

The National Flags of Batavia shall continue to be displayed on the Dutch Ships so long as their Crews remain on Board.

Answer.—The Batavian Colours must be struck so soon as the Ships are taken Possession of by His Britannick Majesty's Officers.

(L. S.) G. K. ELPHINSTONE.
ENGELBERTUS LUCAS.

John Jackson, Secretary to the British Commander in Chief.

Clemens Benedictus, Secretary to the Commander in Chief of the Dutch Squadron.

To his Excellency Rear-Admiral Engelbertus Lucas, Commander in Chief of the Squadron of the United States, now lying in Saldanha Bay.

S I R,

I Have had the Honor to receive your Letter, with the Proposals of Capitulation, and I have now the Honor to inclose you my Letters and Answers thereunto, which I hope will be acceptable. I have mentioned to Captain Claris my Inclination to accommodate your Excellency and the other Officers inclined to return to Europe upon their Parole, with the Maria Storeship, or in British Vessels, of which there are many at the Cape, but any of the Public Armed Ships I dare not presume to permit to depart.

Your Excellency may rest assured of every good Office within my Reach. Should the inclosed Articles

files not meet with your Approbation, you will be pleased to order the Flag of Truce to be hauled down, as a Signal that either Party may commence Hostilities.

I have the Honor to be, with great Respect,

Sir, your most obedient

Humble Servant,

G. K. ELPHINSTONE.

His Britannick Majesty's Ship
Monarch, Saldanha Bay,
August 17, 1796.

(No. 6.)

A List of Ships late belonging to the United States, under the Command of his Excellency Rear-Admiral Engelbertus Lucas, which surrendered on the 17th of August, 1796, to a Detachment of the Squadron of His Majesty's Ships under the Command of the Honorable Sir George Keith Elphinstone, K. B. in Saldanha Bay.

Ships Names.	Commanders.	Guns.	Seamen and Troops.
Dortrecht,	Rear-Adm. Lucas,	66	370
Revolution,	Capt. Rhnebende,	66	400
Admiral Tromp,	Capt. Valkenburg,	54	280
Cathor,	Capt. Clariffe,	44	240
Braave,	Capt. Zoetmans,	40	234
Bellona,	Capt. Valk,	28	130
Sirene,	Capt. De Cerf,	26	130
Havik,	Capt. Bezemer,	18	76
Maria, (Storeship)	—	—	112
Total.		342	1972

N. B. Many of the Guns are Brafts, besides which they are well furnished with Cannonades.

They have Four Field-Pieces of Land Artillery on Board. The Troops are under the Command of the Rear-Admiral; Lieutenant-Colonel Henri is

Adjutant-General, and Monf. Grandecourt, Commandant of Artillery.

G. K. ELPHINSTONE.

Monarch, Saldanha Bay,

August 19, 1796,

(No. 7.)

A List of His Majesty's Ships of the Detachment of the Squadron under the Command of the Honorable Sir George Keith Elphinstone, K. B. to which the Dutch Squadron, under the Command of his Excellency Engelbertus Lucas, surrendered on the 17th of August, 1796, in Saldanha Bay.

Monarch—74 Guns, 612 Men, Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir George Keith Elphinstone, K. B. Captain John Elphinstone.

Tremendous—74 Guns, 590 Men, Rear-Admiral Thomas Pringle; Captain John Aylmer.

America—64 Guns, 491 Men, Commodore John Blanket.

Stately—64 Guns, 491 Men, Captain Billy Douglas.

Ruby—64 Guns, 491 Men, Captain Jacob Waller.

Sceptre, 64 Guns, 491 Men, Captain William Elphinstone.

Trident—64 Guns, 491 Men, Captain E. O. Osborne.

Jupiter—50 Guns, 343 Men, Captain George Lock.

Crescent—36 Guns, 264 Men, Captain Edward Buller.

Sphinx—24 Guns, 155 Men, Captain Andrew Tod.

Mofelle—16 Guns, 121 Men, Captain Charles Brisbane.

Rattlesnake—16 Guns, 121 Men, Captain Edward Ramage.

Echo—16 Guns, 121 Men, Captain John Turner.

Hope—Sloop, Captain Thomas Alexander.

Monarch, Saldanha Bay,

August 19, 1796.

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